

**March 2, 2022**

**Testimony Concerning Support for:  
HB 933 Child Care Scholarship Program – Alterations (Maryland Child Care Working Families Act)  
HB 993 Child Care Capital Support Revolving Loan Fund – Established  
HB 995 Early Childhood Development – Child Care Scholarship Program – Alterations  
HB 1100 – Child Care Providers and Employees – Bonuses**

**Submitted to the House Committee on Ways and Means**

**Labor,**

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**We urge your support for legislation to help ensure a thriving child care system in Maryland.**

Child care providers across the nation continue to struggle as they recover during the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. Child care providers are in crisis, and so are families, and Prince George's County is no exception. I am no exception. In the last two years, we have experienced drop in enrollment, which means drop in income, increase cost of PPEs, food, and all other cost of operating our business.

Insert some things about you/your program, for instance:

- I am a licensed child care provider for the last thirty years
- I am on MDEXCELS
- I accept children on scholarship
- My licensed capacity is 8. I currently have 4 full-time and 4 part-time children
- I cannot hire staff because I have fluctuating enrollment

In Prince George's County, area child care providers like me are experiencing deep challenges with funding/finances, staffing and enrollment which are all totally intertwined. The stabilization funds offered in 2021 were an important step. There is more to be done.

We need help rebuilding our businesses and keeping our quality, relationship-based practices strong, so we can be there for working parents and for young children. The quality of child care, and the experience of the birth-to-five years, are crucial to school readiness and supporting working families.

Support from HB933, HB993, HB995 and HB1100 will help with:

- Access to hiring bonuses for new staff (that's HB 1100)
- Access to a revolving loan fund to make changes to my program's physical spaces, with 5 years to repay (that's HB 993)
- Families with access to presumptive eligibility for child care scholarship (that's HB 995)
- Payment from MSDE 10 days after you invoice them (that's HB 995)
- Families relieved from the burden of compliance with child support enforcement (that's HB 995)
- Families relieved from co pays when they experience challenges, with payment from MSDE instead (that's HB 995)

- Stronger family eligibility policies and practices so that more families have choices and access to the child care programs that meet their needs (that's HB 933)

We must continue to take steps to stabilize the child care sector and the well-being of people who work in child care, and we must also rebuild child care better than before.

Thank you for your leadership for our community. Together we can help child care programs to stay open successfully and offer more choices for families, when we make sure that all the pieces and parts of policy ideas come together.